



# CENTRAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 7, 2024

*Second Sunday of Easter (White)*

**Prayer Focus: Congregational Care**

**Welcome to worship at Central!**

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to worship at Central where it is our mission to follow Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbors. I, along with the rest of our clergy team, Rev. Ann Kovan and Rev. Meg Jiunnies, are grateful you've chosen to make Central a part of your day today. We have prayed for you and planned for you, and hope you have a meaningful worship experience. Whether it's your first time worshipping with us or you're a lifelong member, we welcome any opportunity to speak with you about how to connect with God through Central. If it is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a connect card and bring it to the Welcome Center where you will receive a gift from the church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us this week if we can be of service. Once again, welcome!

Rev. Thomas W. Smith,  
Senior Pastor

## Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in honor of Maree Cherry's 95th birthday on April 7, 2024, by Kathy Jamison, Jacque and Mike Atkinson, and grandsons James and Jack Fisher.

## Music Note

Today we will hear different versions of *O Sons and Daughters, Let us Sing* (UMH 317); first sung as a hymn and later as the foundation for the closing voluntary. The text was originally a nine-stanza Latin poem written by the 15th century Franciscan monk Jean Tisserand. It was translated by John Mason Neale in 1851. Stanzas 6-9 are based on the Gospel lesson for the second Sunday of Easter in which Jesus appears to Thomas. The tune *O filii et filiae* is a 15th century French carol. Its name is derived from the first four words of the Latin text.

# Order of Worship

## GATHERING

## The People Come Together in the Lord's Name

### PARISH CONCERNS

*(The service of worship begins. The prelude is offered on behalf of the entire congregation. Quiet meditation and private prayer are encouraged.)*

OPENING VOLUNTARY ..... Johannes Brahms  
*Intermezzo in E-flat Minor, Op. 118, No. 6*

### \*CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*(\*All who are able are asked to stand.)*

### \*GREETING

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**

Leader: Receive the Holy Spirit.

**People: It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

\*HYMN IN PROCESSION 315 .....ST. KEVIN  
*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881 ..... Apostles' Creed

\*GLORIA PATRI 71 ..... GREATOREX  
*Glory Be to the Father*

### COLLECT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Breathe in this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to open our minds, unlock our hearts, and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen one among us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we now pray:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## PROCLAMATION

## God's Word is Shared

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ..... Acts 4:32-35  
Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM ..... arr, Simon Andrews  
*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat that springeth green. In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain, thinking that never he would wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: love is come again, like wheat that springeth green. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain; quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: love is come again, like wheat that springeth green. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again; fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

EPISTLE LESSON ..... 1 John 1:1-2:2  
Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*ACT OF PRAISE 850 ..... Psalm 133

### CHILDREN'S TIME

*(Children are invited to the chancel. An offering will be received from the children during Children's Time. After Children's Time, children ages 2nd grade and older will return to their seats and children ages 3K to 1st grade will go with a leader and may be picked up in room #145 or #147 after the service.)*

\*HYMN 317 (stanzas 1, 6-9) ..... O FILII ET FILIAE  
*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

\*GOSPEL LESSON ..... John 20:19-31

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON ..... Rev. Thomas Smith

*In Defense of Doubt*  
Series: *Belong, Behave, Believe*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**RESPONDING IN FAITH** **We Respond to God's Word in Worship**

OFFERTORY ..... Johannes Brahms  
*Fugue in B-flat Minor Op. 24*

\*DOXOLOGY 94 ..... LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**SENDING FORTH** **We Respond to God's Grace with Our Lives**

\*BENEDICTION

\*HYMN IN PROCESSION 327 ..... DIADEMATA  
*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY ..... Daniel Burton  
*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

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**Assisting in Worship**

Preacher ..... Rev. Thomas Smith  
Liturgist ..... Rev. Meg Bryce Jiunnies  
Children's Time ..... Rev. Thomas Smith  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Dr. Don Grice  
Organist/Choir Accompanist ..... Beverly Hazelwood  
Pianist ..... Dr. Benjamin Woods  
Lay Readers ..... Carroll Player, Jennifer Peebles  
Acolyte ..... Billy Hardaway  
Crucifer ..... Aylett Moore  
Chancel Choir

**2024 STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

<b>2024 General Operating Budget</b>	
Approved Budget for 2024	\$2,318,729.52
Received Week of 03-31-2024	\$53,341.00
Received YTD	\$529,918.74
<b>2024 Capital Building Fund</b>	
Received Week of 03-31-2024	\$940.00
Received YTD	\$8,223.50
<b>2024 Special Gifts</b>	
Received Week of 03-31-2024	\$703.45
Received YTD	\$23,486.38
<b>2024 Endowment Gifts</b>	
Received YTD	\$565.00

**ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR MARCH 31, 2024**

Easter Sunday Sanctuary Service	443
Easter Sunday The Well Service	148
Easter Sunrise Service	55
Service of Prayer & Holy Communion	16
Children's Sunday School	52
Adult Sunday School	45

## IN MEMORY OF

### DISCRETIONARY FUND

Clarence & Roslyn Davis ..... by Kari & Ben King  
John Orr, Betty Searcy, Mike Ballenger ..... by Beth & Steve Stokes

### GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Betty Searcy, Mike Ballenger ..... by Elizabeth Blanton  
Betty Searcy ..... by Grace Girls Bible Study, JB Schwiers, Susan Ahearn  
Nell Starks ..... by Debbie & Dorn Smith

### PRAYER GARDEN

Charlotte Berry ..... by Erin Glenn/Mary Motte Herbert Circle

## IN HONOR OF

### GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Jaime Martinez ..... by Anonymous  
Dr. John M. Younginer Jr. .... Carolyn & Joe Younginer

## SPECIAL GIFTS

COSTA RICA MISSION ..... by Jeanette & Wayne Jackson  
DISCRETIONARY FUND & YOUTH MINISTRY ..... by Kriste & Chuck Lindler

## REPORTS FOR MARCH 24, 2024

## IN MEMORY OF

### GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

John Orr, Betty Searcy ..... by Missy & Gary Brown  
Betty Searcy ..... by Ann Herbert, Amy & Bryant Sansbury, Michael Sullivan  
Fred Seale ..... by Howard Seale  
Mike Ballenger, John Orr, Nell Starks ..... by Deborah & Bob Sharpe

### HANDBELL MINISTRY

Nell Starks ..... by Frances & Laurence McIntosh

### SUNSHINE CLASS

John Orr ..... by Dr. Roy Hudgens

## IN HONOR OF

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Beverly & Bill Hazelwood ..... by Dr. Roy Hudgens  
Betty Hester ..... by Pearl Jones/Rosa Sanders Circle  
Don Grice ..... by Sally Taylor

## SPECIAL GIFTS

DISCRETIONARY FUND & YOUTH MINISTRY ..... by Kriste & Chuck Lindler

DISCRETIONARY FUND ..... by Sunshine Class

HELP4KIDS ..... by Judy Love

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2024 General Operating Budget  
Approved Budget for 2024 ..... \$2,318,729.52  
Received Week of 03-24-2024 ..... \$37,687.00  
2024 Capital Building Fund  
Received Week of 03-24-2024 ..... \$180.00  
2024 Special Gifts  
Received Week of 03-24-2024 ..... \$1,701.59

## ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR MARCH 24, 2024

Palm Sunday Sanctuary Service ..... 368  
Palm Sunday The Well Service ..... 83  
Good Friday ..... 125  
Maundy Thursday ..... 123  
Midweek Lenten Service ..... 64  
Children's Sunday School ..... 51  
Adult Sunday School ..... 80  
Youth Sunday School ..... 3